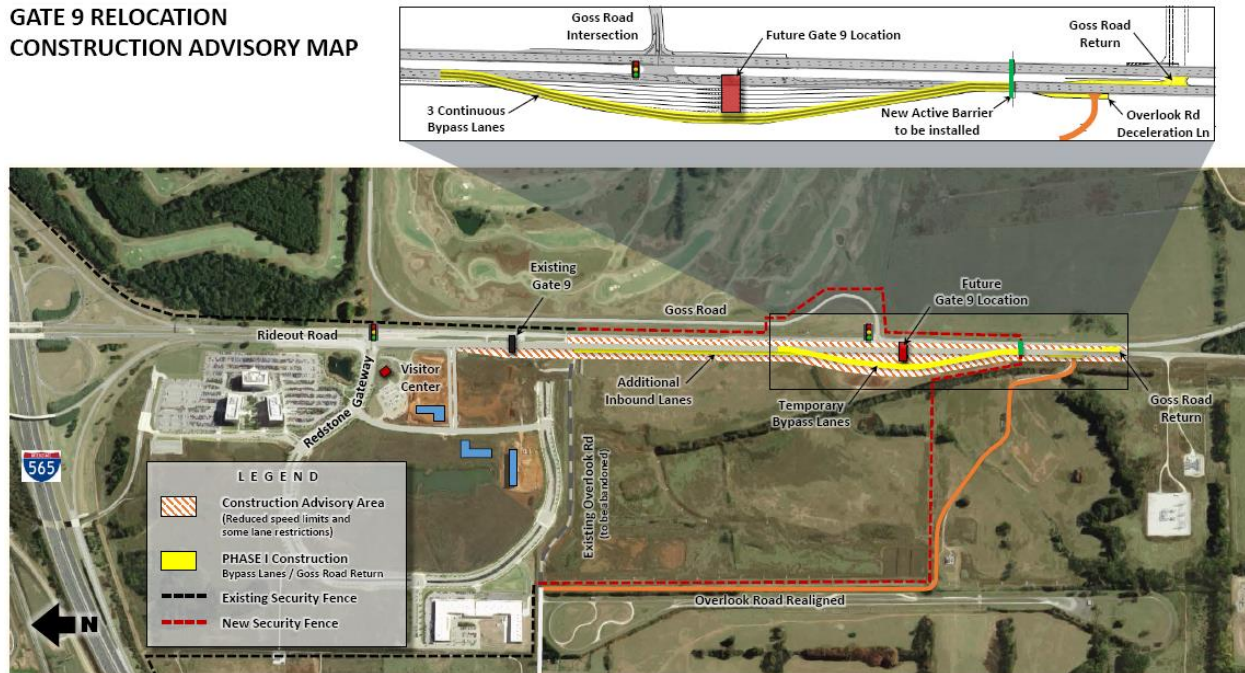


Drivers should ready themselves for change on Rideout Road

**GATE 9 RELOCATION
CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY MAP**



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Drivers take note – changes in traffic patterns at Gate 9 are coming.

Effective Monday, motorists traveling southbound on Rideout Road will do so via three bypass lanes, as construction continues on the relocation of Gate 9. Speed limits along Rideout Road, from Gate 9 to the Toftoy Thruway, were reduced to 35 mph last week ahead of the change. Drivers are asked to obey all traffic signals and signs, and exercise caution when traveling through the area, where fines will be doubled.

“Be careful with your speed. Watch for workers. Understand that our police officers are going to be out there enforcing the speed limits and other traffic control that’s out there,” said Capt. Robert York, supervisory police officer with the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Once motorists have entered the bypass zone they will not be able to change lanes. Drivers are encouraged to strategically place themselves in the lane they need to be in well ahead of the double reverse curves. Those who need to take the Toftoy south exit should position themselves in the left or center bypass lanes, while those traveling south of the work zone should

remain in the middle or right lane. Motorists traveling in the right lane should note there is no paved shoulder.

Drivers who need to turn left onto Goss Road will still be able to do so as normal for the foreseeable future, however, motorists traveling on Goss Road will no longer be able to turn left, southbound, onto Rideout Road.

“Be aware of where you’re going, because there will be traffic that stays in the left lane and goes to Goss Road. There will be construction workers that stay in the left lane to enter the construction area,” said Lee Riddle, an engineer with the Garrison’s Directorate of Public Works. “Don’t just follow the person in front of you. Know where you’re going and know that you’ve got to make this maneuver into one of the bypass lanes.”

Regardless of where they’re headed, vigilance is required of each driver for the safety of all, including construction workers, who will be working in close proximity to the travel lanes in place. Drivers are also reminded, York said, of the Move Over Law, which requires motorists to either move to the next lane, or if that is not safely possible, to slow down by 15 mph when there is an emergency vehicle present, to include police and fire vehicles, as well as ambulances and tow trucks.

“Pay attention to what’s going on around you,” York said. “Practice good, defensive driving.”

The traffic pattern change is all part of the relocation of Gate 9 three-quarters of a mile south in efforts to reduce traffic backups in high speed areas, such as Research Park Boulevard or I-565, thus improving safety for the workforce and all of Team Redstone. Monday begins phase three of the five-phase project which is expected to be complete by summer 2017. The new gate will be constructed just south of the current Goss Road/Rideout Road intersection.

“The construction has to occur. Just like all construction, it will be an annoyance, there’s just no way around it. However, there’s something that everyone can do for us to make sure it’s only an annoyance and not a hazard,” said Garrison Commander Col. Tom Holliday.

“What I’m asking everyone to do is be courteous, follow the rules of the road and support us in moving this gate. The more you do that, the sooner we will be done, and back to a more standard traffic pattern.”